Inside/Out News

Newsletter of the Colorado Springs Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Youth Community

Sep/Oct/Nov 1999 Volume 1, Issue 2

Community Council for Adolescent Development & Inside/Out Staff

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125 North Parkside
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Inside/Out Youth Group
Wednesdays
5:30 pm-6:30 pm

Mission Statement:
To foster a community that nurtures the development of a positive sexual identity in all adolescents, especially homosexual, bisexual and transgendered adolescents and young adults.

When the student is ready, the teacher will come.
We are all both students and teachers of life, we must take time to understand our differences and accept them to create a community that can work together.

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition Summit

By Allison Vaughan

On October 22nd - 25th, five members of the Inside/Out youth group went to Washington D.C. for the Third Annual NYAC National Youth Summit. We all learned and gave a lot at the Summit but what I brought back from it all was this: I learned about people's views on spirituality, developing an understanding about my own spirituality that I may not have figured out on my own. I learned about what goes on inside nonprofit organizations, such as how boards function, why we need boards in the first place, and some little secrets on how the boards decide who to let in. I got the chance to experience a little bit of what people of other races and creeds go through when they are harassed and discriminated against. In a workshop called ***Anti-racism Work for White Folk,*** I was shown how white folks can be discriminated against. I learned how we can work together to stop racism within all communities. I had the chance to join in the Executive Directors' (ED) Networking Session, which gave me the chance to listen to what the EDs had to say about their organizations, and hear their ideas and views on how to make their organizations survive and work better. I also had the chance to put in my two cents on how I think and feel about C-CAD and Inside/Out, and heard how others feel about having youth participate on their boards and working in the organization as paid staff.

Finally, I sat in on the ***Trans Youth*** workshop. This workshop was my favorite because it helped me to understand the transgendered community better . I realize that I must educate myself and be less hypocritical and more accepting. When I heard about the Trans youth experiences, it gave me a better understanding of why transgendered youth feel the way they do. I heard about some of the issues that trans youth go through while trying to understand who they are. Many of the youth shared about the process of making the transition and what some feel they might do when they get older. I learned about medications some of the youth take so that their bodies will look the way trans youth feel they should look. I advised them on some of the side effects and problems they might face if they continue to take the medications.

Throughout the whole conference I had the chance to learn, educate, and have fun all at the same time. I do hope that in the future I will have the chance to go to another Summit or conference so that I can learn even more and come back with information and ideas on how to strengthen our community and show this city that were not all bad, and we have a lot to offer the community! I would like to thank all who donated money to support us in our journey to Washington D.C. Thank you for giving us this chance to network and meet other youth from around the country.

Thank you again for all of your support and this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Sincerely,
Allyson Vaughan, 21, Youth Member

Supporters for 1999: Gill Foundation, Gill Outgiving Fund, El Paso County Department of Health, Cheshire Childrens Foundation , All Souls Community Outreach, Corporate Sponsors and Donors

NetCoRe's 2nd Annual Business of the Year Awards & 1st Annual Pride Center Holiday Community Appreciation Party will be on Saturday December 4th, 1999 at The Pride Center-125 N. Parkside
Festivities start at 7pm
Ballots for Business of the Year will be available 7-8pm
FREE Entry, FREE Drinks, FREE Food, Dancing & Door Prizes
Canned Food Items will be accepted to benefit S-CAP's Food Bank

Poems & Thoughts

SMILE

Somewhere, Someone
Me,
I'm
Lost,
Eternally,
Someone Smiles.
-Ally

True Friends

Friends are like diamonds,
Few and rare.
False friends are like Autumn leaves,
Found everywhere.
-Ally

If you have something you want to submit in this section, please let the editor know.

Information You Should Know...

Sexually Transmitted Disease

What is Sexually Transmitted Disease?

Sexually transmitted disease (STD) is a serious and sometimes painful or unnoticed infection in either your sexual or reproductive organs or a body infection.

How Is STD Spread?

Most STD's are spread during sexual activity such as vaginal, oral and anal sex. Some are spread by contact with infected blood.

What To Do

Most can be cured if treated. Some have no signs or symptoms. If you think you have an STD get it checked out as soon as possible. Most Health Departments have STD clinics. Always use protection.

Happy Birthday To...

Patricia Walker 10/1
Dustin Mann 10/3
Derrick Puente 10/15
Dorothy Thompson 10/27

EVENTS

National Coming Out Day
was 10/11

Holiday Community Appreciation Party
The Pride Center December 4th at 7:00 pm

PFLAG Holiday Pot-Luck
at MCC on December 8th at 7:00 pm

Thanks to all who attended our Thanksgiving party, it was a great success.

From Our Executive Director
Holly Floyd

My parents taught me that life is a gift, and through the gift of life I will learn how to live, love and enjoy the people that pass through my life. So far I have lived and loved, but I am just beginning to enjoy the people that pass through my life. I am blessed with the opportunity to learn from the young people in our community. I am inspired by the courage of the young people of our community who have the strength to be open and honest about their sexuality and feelings.

As some of you know, I lost my father to cancer on July 24th of this year, almost 2 months after becoming the Executive Director of C-CAD. I was with him when he died, and through being there, I have learned a new meaning of peace and acceptance. By saying good-bye to my mother when she passed away in 1993 and to my father now, I have begun the journey of allowing people to pass though my life. I have realized that in order to let people pass through my life I must first let them in.

Through letting people in my life, I have learned so much more then a book could ever teach. I have experienced heartache in my life, but most of all I have lived and loved, and I am learning how to accept the diversity of others. I believe that to let people in is to give time to others. Let someone new into your life today, and volunteer to work with us in providing a safe place for the young people of our community to live, love and enjoy the people who pass through their lives.